

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of storing changes to an attribute of a file comprising steps of:
2 altering an attribute of a file, prior to said altering, the attribute being included in
3 a prior set of attributes of the file stored in a memory device;
4 storing in the memory device a new set of attributes, said new set of attributes
5 including the altered attribute;
6 storing in the memory device a single version of file contents; and
7 sharing the file contents by the prior set of attributes and the new set of attributes.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said altering is performed in
2 connection with the development of a website, extranet site or intranet site and wherein
3 the file contents includes information which is to be accessible via the website, extranet
4 site or intranet site.

1 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said altering is performed in a work
2 area and further comprising submitting the altered attribute for storage in the memory
3 device, the memory device being part of a development server.

1 4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising forming a pointer in
2 response to said altering the attribute wherein the pointer associates the new set of
3 attributes with the file contents.

1 5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
2 altering the file contents; and
3 discontinuing said sharing of the file contents in response to said altering of the
4 file contents.

1 6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

2 storing a new file contents, the new file contents including the file contents as
3 altered by said altering the file contents.

1 7. The method according to claim 5, further comprising retaining in the memory
2 device the file contents, prior to being altered by said altering the file contents, in
3 association with one of the prior set of attributes or the new set of attributes.

1 8. The method according to claim 5, wherein said storing stores the new file contents
2 in association with the new set of attributes when the file contents are accessed via the
3 new set of attributes for performing said altering and further comprising updating the new
4 set of attributes so as to reflect the changed file contents.

1 9. The method according to claim 5, wherein said storing stores the new file contents
2 in association with the prior set of attributes when the file contents are accessed via the
3 prior set of attributes for performing said altering and further comprising updating the
4 prior set of attributes so as to reflect the changed file contents.

1 10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
2 altering an attribute of the new set of attributes thereby forming a third set of
3 attributes;
4 sharing said file contents by the prior set of attributes, the new set of attributes
5 and the third set of attributes.

1 11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising forming a pointer in
2 response to said altering an attribute wherein the pointer associates the new set of
3 attributes and the third set of attributes with the file contents.

1 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the new set of attributes and the third
2 set of attributes each includes an identification of the pointer.

1 13. The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

2 forming a first pointer in response to said altering an attribute of the file, wherein
3 the first pointer associates the new set of attributes with the file contents; and
4 forming a second pointer in response said altering the attribute of the new set of attributes
5 wherein the second pointer associates the third set of attributes with the file contents.

1 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the new set of attributes includes an
2 identification of the first pointer and wherein the third set of attributes includes an
3 identification of the second pointer.

1 15. An apparatus for storing changes to an attribute of a file, the apparatus having
2 physical memory comprising:
3 a work area including a file undergoing development, the file having a prior set of
4 attributes and file contents; and
5 a staging area for receiving an alteration made in the work area to an attribute of
6 the prior set of attributes wherein in response to receiving the changed attribute, a new set
7 of attributes is stored in the memory, the new set of attributes including the altered
8 attribute and the file contents being shared by the prior set of attributes and the new set of
9 attributes.

1 16. The apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising an edition area for
2 storing contents of a website, extranet site or intranet site and wherein the file contents
3 includes information which is to be accessible via the website, extranet site or intranet
4 site.

1 17. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said memory further comprises a
2 persistent backing store memory for storing the prior set of attributes, the new set of
3 attributes and the shared file contents.

1 18. The apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a pointer stored in the
2 memory for associating the new set of attributes with the file contents.

1 19. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein when an alteration is made to the
2 file contents in the work area, the file contents are no longer shared by the prior set of
3 attributes and the new set of attributes.

1 20. The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein a new file contents, as altered by
2 said alteration to the file contents, is stored in the memory.

1 21. The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the memory device stores the file
2 contents, prior to being altered by said alteration to the file contents, in association with
3 one of the prior set of attributes or the new set of attributes, said prior set of attributes or
4 new set of attributes updated so as to reflect the changed file contents.